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CAMPAIGN FINANCE DIVISION

☒ **WAIVER REQUEST**
☐ **RECONSIDERATION REQUEST**

DATE: 10/26/2020
DOCKET #:

FILER INFORMATION

Name: Lawrence Batiste
Office: Councilman, District 4, City of Natchitoches
Parish: NATCHITOCHES
Election Date: 7/11/2020
Level of Office: Any

REPORT INFORMATION

Name of Report: 30-P
Original Due Date: 3/5/2020
Date Filed: 7/29/2020
Activity Receipts: \$1,000.00
Expenditures: \$499.00
Funds at Close of Reporting Period: \$501.00

LATE FEE INFORMATION

Amount of Late Fee: \$1000
Days Late: 146
Late Fee Order Received: 8/24/2020
Payment/Waiver Request Due Date: 9/14/2020
Waiver Request Received: 9/2/2020
Additional Information Requested:

- Medical
- Financial
- Other

COMMENTS: Mr. Batiste was under the mistaken belief that the initial reporting period was delayed due to the election being postponed from March until July 11, 2020. Mr. Batiste attempted to comply with State law and actually filed his initial report on June 30, 2020.. Thereafter Mr. Batiste received notice from the Board of Ethics dated July 13, 2020 advising that there were errors/omissions in the report mailed June 30, 2020. Mr. Batiste immediately attempted to correct the errors/omissions and filed an amended report on July 29, 2020. . Covid-19 has presented new frontiers in every aspect of life. Mr. Batiste is a School Teacher who, as evidenced by this Candidate's Report, raised only \$1,000 in his pursuit for re-election.

OTHER LATE FEE INFORMATION

Campaign Finance:

Other Outstanding Reports: No
Other Outstanding Late Fees: No
Prior Late Fees: No
Reassessed Late Fees: No

Disclosure Statements:

Other Outstanding Late Fees: No
Prior Late Fees: No

ETHICS BOARD REC'D
SEP 2 '20 PM 1:20

LAW OFFICES
CORKERN, CREWS, GUILLET & JOHNSON, L.L.C.
616 FRONT STREET P.O. BOX 1036
NATCHITOCHE, LOUISIANA 71458-1036

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EMAIL-corkern@ccgjlawfirm.com

September 2, 2020

**Via Fax 225-381-7271 and
Priority Mail EJ 205 849 505 US**
Louisiana Board of Ethics
Post Office Box 4368
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

RE: Request for Waiver of Late Fee
Assessment directed to
Lawrence Batiste

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this Request on behalf of Mr. Lawrence Batiste. I am the City Attorney for Natchitoches and Mr. Batiste has served as a Councilman for the City of Natchitoches for the past four years. Because of the friendship developed during that time I offered to assist him in requesting a waiver of the late fee assessed by the Louisiana Board of Ethics. According to the Late Fee Assessment Order, Mr. Batiste was required to file a 30th Day Prior to Primary Report by March 5, 2020 and was 146 days late when the report was filed on July 29, 2020.

Mr. Batiste was under the mistaken belief that the initial reporting period was delayed due to the election being postponed from March until July 11, 2020. Mr. Batiste attempted to comply with State law and actually filed his initial report on June 30, 2020. A copy of the Certificate of Mailing is attached hereto.

Thereafter Mr. Batiste received notice from the Louisiana Board of Ethics dated July 13, 2020 advising that there were errors/omissions in the report mailed June 30, 2020. Mr. Batiste immediately attempted to correct the errors/omissions and filed an amended report on July 29, 2020. See attached Certificate of Mailing.

As evidenced by the above, it is apparent that the failure to timely file the Candidate's Report was not willful. Covid-19 has presented new frontiers in every aspect of life. Mr. Batiste is a School Teacher who, as evidenced by this Candidate's Report, raised

September 2, 2020
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only \$1,000 in his pursuit for re-election to the Natchitoches City Council. Under the circumstances it seems an assessment of \$1,000.00 is harsh and unwarranted. Mr. Batiste respectfully requests that this Board consider the fact that he honestly believed that all the initial deadlines based upon an election in March, 2020 were extended. Furthermore, your records should reflect that his initial report was filed on June 30, 2020 and not July 29, 2020.

Based upon the foregoing, Mr. Batiste respectfully requests this Board waive the late fee assessment in this matter.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



RONALD E. CORKERN, JR.

RECjr/tbc

cc: Mr. Lawrence Batiste.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE Certificate of Mailing

This Certificate of Mailing provides evidence that mail has been presented to USPS® for mailing. This form may be used for domestic and international mail.

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P.O.B 92
Natchitoches 71457
LA Board of Ethics
P.O.B 4368
BR LA 70821

To: LA Board of Ethics
P.O.B 4368
BR LA 70821

PS Form 3817, April 2007 PSN 7530-02-000-9065

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July 29, 2020

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June 30, 2020

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